

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 22 are pending in the present application. Claim 22 is newly added.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 1 – 16 and 21.

In section 2 of the Office Action, claims 17 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,689,163 to Glorioso (hereinafter "the Glorioso patent"). Applicants amended claim 17 to clarify an aspect thereof that is neither described nor suggested by the Glorioso patent.

Claim 17 provides an element for manipulating an optical signal. The element includes a first sub-element that provides a variation in a manipulation property along a first axis, and a second sub-element that provides a variation in the manipulation property along a second axis. The first axis and the second axis are non-parallel to each other.

FIG. 1 of the present application is an illustration of a polarimeter that includes an exemplary arrangement of sub-elements, in accordance with claim 17. In this example, the polarimeter includes retardation plates 2 and 4, which are wedge-shaped and have non-parallel planar surfaces. Note that in FIG. 1, retardation plate 2 is situated with its thick side toward the bottom of FIG. 1, and retardation plate 4 is situated with its thick side perpendicular to the plane in which FIG. 1 is drawn.

The Glorioso patent discloses a polariscope that includes a pair of prisms, i.e., prisms 11 and 12. At col. 2, lines 50 – 55, the Glorioso patent explains that prisms 11 and 12 are juxtaposed in a path of a polarized light beam, thick-side-to-thick-side and thin-side-to-thin-side, with their respective inclined edges facing away from one another (see FIGS. 1 and 2). Thus, prisms 11 and 12 appear to be arranged to **provide a variation in a manipulation property only in the Y direction**. Consequently, the Glorioso patent neither describes nor suggests a first sub-element ... that provides a

variation in a manipulation property along a first axis, and a second sub-element ... that provides a **variation in the manipulation property along a second axis**, wherein said first axis and said second axis are **non-parallel to each other**, as recited in claim 17. Hence, the Glorioso patent does not anticipate claim 17.

Claims 18 – 20 depend from claim 17. By virtue of this dependence, claims 18 – 20 are also novel over the Glorioso patent.

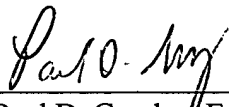
Applicants have clarified an aspect of claim 17 that is neither described nor suggested by the Glorioso patent. The amendment to claim 17 is not intended to limit the scope of any term of any of the claims, and therefore, the doctrine of equivalents should be available for all of the terms of all of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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